

Message Text

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53

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 T-03 RSR-01 /124 W
----- 060522

R 151105 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6007

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BLANTYRE 399

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, RH

SUBJ: RHODESIA

REF: BLANTYRE 164

1. PRESIDENT BANDA ASKED ME MARCH 14 TO PASS TO WASHINGTON FOLLOWING ASSESSMENT ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN RHODESIA.

2. RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCES HAVE BROKEN UP MAIN CAMP OF GUERRILLAS, BUT POCKETS STILL SCATTERED IN BOTH BUSH AND VILLAGES. BY USE OF THREATS GUERRILLAS HAD OBTAINED COOPERATION OF CERTAIN CHIEFS. HOWEVER, RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCES ARE GETTING UPPER HAND AND SHOULD HAVE SITUATION UNDER CONTROL BEFORE LONG. RHODESIANS GREATLY HELPED BY EXCELLENT INTELLIGENCE NETWORK WHICH IN TURN FACILITATED BY RHODESIA AFRICANS LOVE FOR MONEY.

3. INTERNALLY, GROUP OF AFRICAN BUSINESSMEN AND CIVIL SERVANTS OPPOSED TO REJECTION OF 1971 BRITISH SETTLEMENT PRO-
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POSAL WAS SEEKING TO ESTABLISH ITSELF. IT IN TOUCH WITH IAN SMITH, ALTHOUGH LATTER PUBLICLY KEEPING ARMS LENGTH FOR TIME BEING. ON EUROPEAN SIDE, ANOTHER GROUP OF BUSINESSMEN AND FARMERS HAVE FORMED RHODESIA PARTY WHICH IS A LITTLE TO LEFT OF RHODESIA FRONT. PARTY HOPES TO REACH UNDERSTANDING WITH AFRICANS MENTIONED ABOVE AND EVENTUALLY MAKE JOINT APPROACH TO UK. PRESIDENT BANDA THOUGHT RHODESIA PARTY MIGHT SUCCEED IN TOPPLING RHODESIA FRONT IN NEXT ELECTIONS.

4. BRITISH ARE IN TOUCH WITH RHODESIANS AT MIDDLE OFFICIAL LEVEL. THEY WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN SECURING ZAMBIA'S RELEASE OF RAILROAD MAN WHO STEPPED ACROSS DEMARCATION LINE. FOREIGN MINISTER HOME REMAINS INTENSELY INTERESTED IN WORKING OUT RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT WHICH WOULD CULMINATE HIS CAREER. BURDETT

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